

**English/Comparative Literature/Film Studies 316:  
World Cinema—Latina and Latin American Women Directors  
Professor Gilberto M. Blasini**

**Monday & Wednesday, 2:00 – 4:30 PM**

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**Office hours: Monday & Wednesday, 12:30 – 1:30 PM and by appointment**

**Course Description:** The class explores the works of Latina and Latin American women directors mostly since the 1980s. We will study their cinematic texts and how they engage with discourses of gender, politics and aesthetics in relation to notions of *Latinidad* and Latin Americanness. A fruitful way to understand the similarities and differences between Latina and Latin American communities is through the exploration of issues that pervade these communities but might find a range of diverse expression given the specificity of the different national contexts under consideration. Two of these issues are the ubiquity of patriarchy and the shared history of colonization that have influenced the formation of Latina and Latin American identities, both individual as well as collective, in the U.S. and Latin America. Since women directors tend to focus their films on explorations about the unbalanced power stratifications of their societies, we will emphasize questions related to the construction of gender and sexuality as a unifying thread among all the films/videos. In addition, we will pay attention to the way that other axes of cultural difference such as race, age, class and nationality, just to mention three, further complicate discourses about gender and sexuality. Some of the filmmakers that we will study include: Sara Gómez (Cuba), Claudia Llosa (Peru), Lucrecia Martel (Argentina), María Novaro (Mexico), Euzhan Palcy (Martinique) Lourdes Portillo (USA), Lucía Puenzo (Argentina), Rose Troche (USA), Fina Torres (Venezuela), and Ela Troyano (USA), among others.